



U.S.S. CALIFORNIA (CGN 36)

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From: Commanding Officer, USS CALIFORNIA (CGN 36)
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09B9) Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D.C.

Subj: Command History (Report Symbol OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

1976

Encl: (1) Command History of USS CALIFORNIA (CGN 36) for period 1 JAN 76
through 31 DEC 76

1. Pursuant to the requirements of reference (a), enclosure (1) with
documentary annexes is hereby forwarded.


WILLIAM RENTZ

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Reg 152 16-13

1. (U) Command Organization

a. (U) Commanding Officers. Captain Floyd H. MILLER, JR, U. S. Navy, was in command of USS CALIFORNIA (CGN 36) from 1 January 1976 to 26 March 1976. From 26 March 1976 to 31 December 1976 the ship was commanded by Captain William RENTZ, U. S. Navy.

b. (U) Missions and Functions remain as described in the 1972 history.

c. (U) The designation of the command remains as described in the 1975 history.

d. (U) Command location remained Norfolk, Virginia.

2. ~~(C)~~ Summary of Operations (U)January 1976 (U)

1-18 (U) Inport Norfolk, Virginia. USS CALIFORNIA (CGN 36) was visited on 15 January by the Seamanship Educational Assistance Team which examined the ship's Special Sea Details and Replenishment Details on station for safety and proper procedures. The team from USS RICHARD K. TURNER (CG 20) evaluated the ship's organization as outstanding.

19-23 (U) Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area. Tartar "D" missile systems technical evaluation (T/S 144) began and continued until 10 May.

24-25 (U) Inport Norfolk, Virginia.

26-29 (U) Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area.

30 (U) Inport Norfolk, Virginia.

February 1976 (U)

1 (U) Inport Norfolk, Virginia.

5-6 (U) Independent Operations, Virginia Capes Operating Area. Vibration tests were conducted on the ship's hull.

7-8 (U) Inport Yorktown Virginia; Weapons Onload.

9-11 (U) Independent Operations Virginia Capes Operating Area.

12-13 (U) Enroute Halifax, Canada.

14-16 (U) Inport Halifax, Canada. On 15 February VADM BOYLE, Canadian Armed Forces visited USS CALIFORNIA and the Wardroom hosted 20 Canadian officers for lunch.

17-18 (U) Enroute Virginia Capes Operating Area.

19-20 (U) Independent Operations Virginia Capes Operating Area.

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- 21-24 (U) Inport Norfolk, Virginia.
- 25-28 (U) Enroute Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
- 29 (U) Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

March 1976 (U)

- 1-4 (U) Local Operations Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. On 2 March USS CALIFORNIA participated in Naval Gunfire Support Exercises. Three Tartar missiles were fired as a test for Tartar "D" missile system technical evaluation on 4 March.
- 5-10 (U) Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
- 11 (U) Local Operations Roosevelt Roads Operating Area. Four Tartar missiles were fired by USS CALIFORNIA.
- 12-14 (U) Inport Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands.
- 15 (U) Underway for Roosevelt Roads, Operating Area.
- 16 (U) USS CALIFORNIA fired four Tartar missiles. At 1700, the USS CALIFORNIA rescued two men who were adrift at sea in a fishing boat approximately 35 miles south of Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico (see annex 6-1).
- 17 (U) Missilex conducted. Two Tartar missiles were fired.
- 18 (U) Conducted Naval Gunfire Support Exercise.
- 19-22 (U) Enroute Norfolk, Virginia. Underwent concurrent Nuclear Propulsion Mobile Training Team visit. This assist visit provided the ship with a valuable test of its propulsion plant readiness. Propulsion plant drills were the major emphasis. Material, radiological controls, and chemistry record inspections were conducted.
- 23-31 (U) Inport Norfolk, Virginia. A Change of Command ceremony was held on 26 March. Captain Floyd H. MILLER, JR., was relieved by Captain William RENTZ. See annex 6-2.

April 1976 (U)

- 1-30 (U) Inport Norfolk, Virginia. On 2 April RADM ACCARY, French Navy Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and RADM HANSON, USN, Prospective Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group EIGHT toured ship. WRL-1C installation commenced on 19 April. On 29 April four Tartar missiles were unloaded.

May 1976 (C)

- 1-9 ~~(C)~~ Inport Norfolk, Virginia. The Tartar "D" system technical evaluation was completed. A primary finding was that new equipment was required to identify and reduce RFI and EMI. The AN/SPG-51D radar transmitters were flawless during the evaluation. See annex 6-3. Operational evaluation of Tartar "D" GMFCS MK 74 MOD 4 begins (O/S-244).

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- 10-12 (U) Enroute Yorktown, Virginia. On 12 May one Tartar missile was fired successfully. Moreover, one Tartar missile was fired successfully on 13 May.
- 13-14 (U) Inport Yorktown, Virginia for missile onload.
- 15-16 (U) Enroute Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
- 17 (U) Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
- 18-21 (U) Underway, Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range. On 18 May three Tartar missiles were fired. On 21 May six Tartar missiles were fired and a gunnery shoot and graded General Quarters problem were conducted. Upon completion, moored at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
- 22-23 (U) Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
- 24-28 (U) Underway enroute Norfolk, Virginia. On 25 and 26 May gun shock and vibration tests were conducted.
- 29-31 (U) Inport Norfolk, Virginia.

June 1976 (U)

- 1-20 (U) Inport Norfolk, Virginia. On 3 June RADM SMITH, COMCRUDESGRU ONE toured the ship (see annex 6-4). USS CALIFORNIA contributed \$1,600 to Navy Relief (see annex 6-5). The Atlantic Fleet Inspector General visited USS CALIFORNIA on 8 June (see annex 6-6). On 15 and 16 June The Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection was held (see annex 6-7).
- 21-22 (U) Weapons onload conducted at Yorktown, Virginia.
- 23-27 (U) Inport Norfolk, Virginia.
- 28-30 (U) Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area.

July 1976 (U)

- 1 (U) Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area.
- 2-6 (U) Inport Norfolk, Virginia. During the period 2-5 July the Annual TYCOM PMS Inspection was conducted.
- 7-16 (U) Enroute Gibraltar, B.C.C. On 7 July the USS CALIFORNIA began her transit of the Atlantic in company with seven ships among which were USS SOUTH CAROLINA (CGN 37) and USS NIMITZ (CVN 68). This was the first time in over ten years that a Nuclear Powered Task Group has deployed to the Mediterranean. During the period of 9-15 July the Nuclear Propulsion Mobile Training Team visited the ship. This visit provided assistance to engineering preparations for the upcoming Operating Reactors Safeguards Examination (ORSE). On 16 July a token lightline transfer was conducted with USS BUTTE (AE 27).

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- 17-19 (U) Inport Gibraltar, B.C.C. After a successful Atlantic voyage, the ship filed a transit situation summary (see annex 6-8). USS CALIFORNIA conducted turnover with USS MILLER (FF 1091). On 19 July, RADM SANDEFORD, RN, Flag Officer, Gibraltar visited and toured the ship. Later on 19 July RADM NICHOLSON (CTF 69) visited the ship. USS CALIFORNIA prepared for SIXTHFLT operations (see annexes 6-9/10).
- 20-28 (U) Underway for operations in Western Mediterranean. On 21 July an INCHOP material inspection was conducted onboard by COMSERVFORSIXTHFLT Staff, CALIFORNIA was cited for her outstanding material readiness and maintenance/training programs (see annex 6-11). A Surface Gunnery Exercise was conducted on 23 July.
- 29-31 (U) Inport Taranto, Italy. On 30 August, the ship was visited by CAPT FALLUCCHI Italian Navy, Chief of Staff to VADM BINI and a Flag Selectee.

August 1976 (U)

- 1-8 (U) Conducted operations in Eastern Mediterranean. On 3 August USS CALIFORNIA received congratulations for excellent performance in a communications test (see annex 6-12). USS CALIFORNIA rearmed with USS BUTTE (AE 27) on 4 August. On 5 August the ship fired one Tartar missile at NAMFI, Greece (see annex 6-13). On 8 August the CALIFORNIA State Fair was held on the fantail while the ship was in transit to Augusta Bay, Sicily. As the event was several weeks in preparation, it included a steak cookout and grandstand show. The large audience for the show saw many fine performances by their CALIFORNIA shipmates. The CALIFORNIA Rock Band and Vocal and Guitar Solos were just a few of the musical attractions. Contests followed which included pie eating, arm wrestling, and best looking legs. A video tape of this show was sent home for viewing at a dependents party.
- 9-11 (U) Inport Augusta Bay, Sicily.
- 12-20 (U) Operations in Eastern Mediterranean. Commenced ASW week. On 18 August a SAS inspection was conducted by CTF 60 (see annex 6-14). USS CALIFORNIA participated in the visit of King Juan CARLOS of Spain to the USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) on 19 August (see annex 6-15). On 20 August RADM CARROLL (CTF 60) visited USS CALIFORNIA. See annex 6-16.
- 21-22 (U) Inport Augusta Bay, Sicily.
- 23-26 (U) Underway for Operations in eastern Mediterranean. Commenced participation in NATIONAL WEEK XXI. On 24 August Surface Gunnery, Anti-Air, and ASW Exercises were conducted.
- 27 (U) Arrived Augusta Bay, Sicily for NATIONAL WEEK post exercise conference. At this anchorage, the second Annual great SIXTHFLT Bicentennial motorwhale boat race took place. USS CALIFORNIA's boat not only won the race but accumulated most points for appearance, seamanship, and dirty tricks against 12 motorwhale boats representing other ships at anchor (see annex 6-17).

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- 28-31 (U) Inport Taranto, Italy. On 30 August VADM BINI of the Italian Navy toured the ship and had lunch on board with the Commanding Officer and Captain R. KINNEBREW, USN, COMDESRON TWO.

September 1976 (U)

- 1-3 (U) Inport Taranto, Italy.
- 4-14 (U) Underway for operations in Eastern Mediterranean. On 7 September a refueling exercise was conducted with USS NIMITZ (CVN 68). USS CALIFORNIA fired an ASROC torpedo on 8 September. During the period 9-15 September CINCLANTFLT NPEB conducted the annual ORSE. On 12 September the ship transited the Straits of Messina. A VERTREP was conducted with USS CONCORD (AFS 5) and USNS RIGEL (AF 58) on 13 September. Also an UNREP was held with USS MILWAUKEE (AOR 2). USS CALIFORNIA transited the Straits of Messina on 14 September.
- 15-25 (U) Inport Augusta Bay, Sicily for TAV with USS PUGET SOUND (AD 38). The CINCLANTFLT NPEB departed recommending CALIFORNIA receive an overall grade of EXCELLENT for ORSE (see annex 6-18).
- 26-30 (U) Operations Western Mediterranean. On 28 September a Gunshoot and SINKEX were conducted on an old French destroyer which had been prepared as a target. A Tartar missile, fired from USS CALIFORNIA, achieved a direct hit and her guns scored hits with greater than 90% of 40 total rounds fired (see annexes 19/20). On 29 September USS CALIFORNIA participated in a PUBEX. The ship's CIC team did such an outstanding job that the OCE of this publications exercise recommended that she be "handicapped in future exercises of this type". See annex 6-21. On 30 September an UNREP was conducted with USS MILWAUKEE (AOR 2). See annex 6-22.

October 1976 (U)

- 1 (U) Underway for operations Western Mediterranean.
- 2 (U) Anchored Chella Bank.
- 3-14 (U) Underway for NATO exercise Display Determination. On 3 October the ship conducted a VERTREP with USS MILWAUKEE (AOR 2). Exercise Display Determination began 24 September and ran to 12 October. Naval Forces of Portugal, Italy, Turkey, France and the United Kingdom participated with the U.S. SIXTH FLEET. The exercise included convoy operations, anti-air, and anti-submarine exercises, marine amphibious assault landings and Naval air operations in support of Allied Ground Forces. On 6 October an UNREP was conducted with USS BUTTE (AE 27).
- 14-17 (U) Inport Alexandria, Egypt. During this visit 386 crewmembers participated in a tour of Cairo and the pyramids. Numerous Egyptian officials visited the ship with full honors as CALIFORNIA was the

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first nuclear powered surface warfare ship to visit Egypt. These guests included VADM Fouad ZIKRI, Commander in Chief Egyptian Navy, RADM Galal FAHMY, Commander Naval Base, Alexandria, Major General KORAYEM, Egyptian Army, General BASSIM, Deputy Governor, and the American Consul General, Mr. Robert CHASE. See annex 6-3 for message received from the American Ambassador to Egypt.

- 18-22 (U) Underway for operations in Eastern Mediterranean.
- 22 (U) Anchored Vatika, Greece.
- 23-24 (U) Supported PHIBLEX 4A-7 in Southern Greece.
- 25-31 (U) Underway for operations Eastern Mediterranean. USO show, Strut, performed on fantail. On 27 October USS CALIFORNIA participated in a missile exercise. The ship did not fire due to time limitations and range problems at Salto Di Quirra, Sardinia (see annex 6-24). On 28 October conducted crossdeck helo operations with Belgian Navy Ship ZINNA. See annex 6-25. On 29 October the ship received message of thanks from the DSE which was recently embarked aboard CALIFORNIA. See annex 6-26. On 31 October USS CALIFORNIA was visited by SECNAV, The Honorable J. William MIDDENDORF. Secretary MIDDENDORF presented the engineering department with the Golden Snipe award and toured the ship along with RADM CARROLL, (CTF 60). See annex 6-27.

November 1976 (U)

- 1-15 (U) Moored La Spezia, Italy. The ship was visited by VADM ORIANA, Italian Navy with full honors, followed by a tour and lunch on board. Visits were also exchanged with our host ship, the Italian ship AUDACE.
- 16-17 (U) Underway for Augusta Bay, Sicily.
- 18-28 (U) Anchored Augusta Bay, Sicily. TAV with USS PUGET SOUND (AD 38). Our host ship, Italian destroyer FANTE, formerly USS WALKER, hosted several social functions.
- 29-30 (U) Underway for operations Western Mediterranean.

December 1976 (U)

- 1-9 (U) Underway for operations in Eastern Mediterranean. After rendezvous with USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CV 42) on 6 December USS CALIFORNIA conducted operations with Task Group 60.2. The ship's performance was very effective during a mini-war exercise. A BZ message was received from the VF 51 screaming eagles lauding the CALIFORNIA's fine air control team. See annexes 6-28/29.
- 10-13 (U) Anchored Taranto, Italy. While at Taranto the crew painted on the ship's mission and departmental excellence awards for fiscal year 76/77 recently announced by VADM ADAMSON, our type commander. The following excellence awards prominently displayed as indicated:

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Battle Efficiency "E" -- painted on the bridge wings
 Damage Control "DC" -- painted on the bridge wings
 Communications Green "C" -- painted on the signal bridge and on the door to Radio Central
 Gunnery "E" -- painted on each gun mount and on the SPG 60 director. This is the second consecutive award.
 Red Engineering "E" -- painted on the after mast. This is the second consecutive award.
 Anti Submarine Warfare "A" -- painted on the ASROC launcher. See annex 6-30.

- 14-22 (U) Underway for operations Western Mediterranean. Rendezvous with USS TRENTON (LPD 14) for personnel transfer. During 16-20 December USS CALIFORNIA participated in an amphibious exercise along with USS TRENTON (LPD 14), USS EL PASO (LKA 117), USS HARLAN COUNTRY (LST 1196), and USS FORT SNELLING (LSD 30). This exercise provided excellent training and exposure to amphibious warfare tactics. This was the first time that a cruiser had been utilized as the control ship for amphibious tactical air and support arms coordination as well as our normal functions (see annex 6-31).

On 21 December conducted UNREP with USS MILWAUKEE (AOR 2) and transited the Straits of Messina. The James F. CHEZEK Memorial Gunnery Award was received by the ship (see annex 6-33). This award rotates from East Coast to West Coast and USS CALIFORNIA had the highest score for the past year in Naval Gunfire Support.

- 23-31 (U) Inport Kalamata, Greece. While at Kalamata, the ship was visited by the Archbishop of Messenia, Bishop CHRYSOSTOMOS, the Nomarch (Provincial Governor), Mr. Kyriakos STEFANAKOS, the Military Governor, Colonel FRANGOJANNIS, and the Mayor of Kalamata, Mr. Emmanuel VEKKOS, as well as numerous prominent citizens. All were impressed with the ship and with the conduct of the crew ashore. Many long lasting friendships were made. At Kalamata a group of CALIFORNIA volunteers worked at the Kalamata Boys Orphanage each day. The volunteers improved the living conditions at the orphanage and held a Christmas party for the orphans. Moreover, a party was held for the orphans on board. They were given a tour of the ship, shown cartoons in the Crew's Lounge, and fed one of CALIFORNIA's fantastic meals. The older boys from the orphanage came back aboard the ship on 31 December and sang some traditional Greek New Year's songs as a way of saying thank you.

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ANNEXES

- 6-1 ~~(C)~~ COMSECONDFLT 172332Z MAR 76
- 6-2 (U) Change of Command Ceremony
- 6-3 ~~(C)~~ USS CALIFORNIA 112144Z JUN 76
- 6-4 (U) COMNAVSURFLANT Memo of 28 MAY 76
- 6-5 ~~(C)~~ USS CALIFORNIA 090944Z JUN 76
- 6-6 (U) COMNAVSURFLANT ltr ser 012/3610 of 8 JUN 76
- 6-7 ~~(C)~~ COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT 161750Z JUN 76
- 6-8 ~~(C)~~ USS CALIFORNIA 202035Z JUL 76
- 6-9 ~~(C)~~ FLAG OFFICER GIBRALTAR 200901Z JUL 76
- 6-10 ~~(C)~~ CTF 60 250055Z JUL 76
- 6-11 ~~(C)~~ COMSERVFOR SIXTHFLT 230828Z JUL 76
- 6-12 ~~(C)~~ CNO 032140Z AUG 76
- 6-13 ~~(C)~~ CTF 60 090945Z AUG 76
- 6-14 ~~(C)~~ CTF 60 190237Z AUG 76
- 6-15 ~~(C)~~ CTU 60.1.9 192216Z AUG 76
- 6-16 ~~(C)~~ CTF 60 192215Z AUG 76
- 6-17 ~~(C)~~ USS NIMITZ 240838Z AUG 76
- 6-18 ~~(C)~~ CTF 60 291240Z SEP 76
- 6-19 ~~(C)~~ USS CALIFORNIA 281925Z SEP 76
- 6-20 ~~(C)~~ CTF 60 021815Z OCT 76
- 6-21 ~~(C)~~ CTU 60.1.9 010002Z OCT 76
- 6-22 (C) USS MILWAUKEE 301610Z SEP 76
- 6-23 ~~(C)~~ AMERICAN EMBASSY CAIRO 221440Z OCT 76
- 6-24 ~~(C)~~ USS CALIFORNIA 302036Z OCT 76

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6-25 ~~(C)~~ CTF 60 232349Z OCT 76
6-26 ~~(C)~~ NAVCOMMSTA ROTA SPAIN 261200Z NOV 76
6-27 ~~(C)~~ CTF 60 272303Z OCT 76
6-28 ~~(C)~~ USS CALIFORNIA 081845Z DEC 76
6-29 ~~(C)~~ USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT 071018Z DEC 76
6-30 ~~(C)~~ CTF 60 081645Z DEC 76
6-31 ~~(C)~~ CTF 61 192126Z DEC 76
6-32 ~~(C)~~ USS CALIFORNIA 180825Z OCT 76

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